GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2582
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
MECHANISM OF DISTRESS SALE
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem of distress sale of their produce resorted to by farmers in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, steps taken to ameliorate their plight by giving remunerative price to their produces;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to monitor all distress sales in the country by farmers;

(d) if so, the mechanism in place to watch distress sales by farmers;

(e) whether this monitoring mechanism will be strengthened; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): The prices of certain agricultural commodities are ruling below the minimum support prices (MSPs) at some centers of the country.

(b) to (f): The Government has set up central nodal agencies for undertaking procurement operations whenever the prices fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government. Necessary steps are taken by the Government to avoid distress sale by the farmers below support prices. All complaints relating to distress sale are taken up immediately with the concerned designated nodal agencies. The major procurement operations are undertaken in respect of wheat and rice. In order to closely monitor the MSPs of foodgrains, special control rooms are set up in the FCI at their head quartersas well as regional offices to collect and compile daily procurement figures from the State Governments/UTs and other procurement agencies. These control rooms work on 24 hours basis during peak procurement period.